

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-03

CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2626

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, AR

SUBJECT: US/ ARGENTINE CIVAIR ARRANGEMENTS

REFS: A. BA-1350 B. BA-4302

1. ON JUNE 27 DCM AND COMATT CALLED ON NEW UNDERSECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT ING. JUAN CARLOS PERIE. PERIE RECEIVED US CORDIALLY AND EXPLAINED THAT, HAVING BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY A FEW DAYS, HE WAS NOT YET FAMILIAR WITH FULL DETAILS OF OUR BILATERAL PROBLEM BUT KNEW THE GENERAL LINES. HAD DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH AIR FORCE CINC FAUTARIO AND BOTH NEW AND OLD PRESIDENTS OF AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS.

2. PERIE ASKED FOR MAXIMUM OF THIRTY DAYS DELAY IN PUTTING INTO EFFECT THE ARGENTINE COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION. HE RECOGNIZED THAT QUOTE WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT UNQUOTE AND SEEMED HALF APOLOGETIC ABOUT ASKING FOR THE DELAY, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WOULD BE POLITICAL DANGERS IN CARRYING OUT THE COMMITMENTS ON JULY 1. HE SAID THAT TO DO SO COULD EASILY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR ARGENTINE AND U. S. INTERESTS.

3. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS SUPERIOR, UNDERSECRETARY HORACIO ZUBIRI ARE PERONIST PARTY MEMBERS AND

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THEREFORE VULNERABLE TO POLITICAL ACCUSATIONS. HE SAID THAT BRIGADIER PECCIONE, WHO HE EXPECTS TO TAKE OVER AS DIRECTOR DNTAC WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, IS AN OLD LINE ORTHODOX PERONIST. HE ADDED THAT THE DECISION TO CARRY OUT THE COMMITMENTS SHOULD COME FROM PECCIONE, WHO IS NOT VULNERABLE TO SUCH POLITICAL ATTACKS. HE SAID THAT BEFORE OFFERING JOB TO PECCIONE HE HAD DETERMINED THAT HE WAS NOT QUOTE EXTREME NATIONALIST UNQUOTE AND THAT THEIR THINKING GENERALLY COINCIDED.

4. DCM SAID WE RECOGNIZED THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES UNDER WHICH GOA IS LABORING AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH PERIE AND ZUBIRI HAD SUFFERED (SEE REF B). HE SAID THAT THE U. S. IS COMPLYING WITH ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION AND WANTED ASSURANCE THAT GOA WOULD ALSO COMPLY. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER THE POSTPONEMENT PERIE WAS REQUESTING MEANT A POSTPONEMENT OF THE ACTUAL PUTTING INTO EFFECT OF THE COMMITMENTS OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE CASE. PERIE AGAIN SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE VALIDITY OF OUR AGREEMENT AND WAS ONLY ASKING FOR A 30- DAY DELAY IN CARRYING OUT THE ARGENTINE COMMITMENTS UNDER IT.

5. DCM SAID THAT IN VIEW OF POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES HE WOULD TRANSMIT THIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOA MIGHT GRANT TO THE U. S. CARRIERS, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, THE NEW FREQUENCIES THEY HAD REQUESTED BEGINNING JULY 1. HE ADDED THAT U. S. CARRIERS HAD BEEN INFORMALLY TOLD BY GOA THAT THEY COULD GO AHEAD AND ADVERTISE AND WERE IN FACT ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS FOR NEW FLIGHTS BEGINNING JULY 1. PERIE SAID THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD RUN THE SAME RISKS AS HE HAD ALREADY DESCRIBED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT MIGHT EASILY TURN OUT THAT BRIG PECCIONE COULD FIND THE SITUATION APPROPRIATEDN EVEN BEFORE THE THIRTY DAYS WERE UP, TO APPROVE THE NEW FREQUENCIES.

6. PERIE OFFERED TO SEND US A LETTER CONTAINING THE REQUEST HE HAD MADE VERBALLY, WHICH WE ACCEPTED. WE WILL REPORT ON THIS IMMEDIATELYISF THERE SEEMS TO BE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT HE TOLD US AND WHAT HE IS WILLING TO PUT IN WRITING.

7. PERIE INDICATED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE CONVERSATION THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM SEVERAL SOURCES FOR RENE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOTIATION OF PORTIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. HE ADMITTED THESE PRESSURES WERE POLITICAL AND LEGALISTIC AND WERE NOT BASED ON ANY ANALYSIS INDICATING THAT BENEFITS WERE UNBALANCED. DCM POINTED OUT THAT AGREEMENT WAS MADE FOR TWO YEAR PERIOD AND THAT IT CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IF DIFFICULTIES SHOULD ARISE.

8. OUR FEELING IS THAT PERIE IS BEING FRANK WITH US, IS IN A
DIFFICULT POSITION, AND COULD EASILY FIND HIMSELF IN SERIOUS
TROUBLE IF HE AUTHORIZED THE INCREASED FREQUENCIES NOW. WE ARE
THEREFORE RECOMMENDING TO THE CARRIERS THAT THEY ACCEPT THE
THIRTY DAY DELAY, PROVIDED IT CONTINUES TO APPEAR THAT THE
NEW FREQUENCIES WILL IN FACT BE GRANTED BY AUGUST 1. WE WILL
BE ALERT TO FURTHER INDICATIONS OF GOA INTENTIONS REGARDING
RENEGOTIATION OF MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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